

The arguments of this Petition for Rulemaking have no merit.

The number of Amateur Radio operators who use Morse Code grow every year; as evidenced by the increasing number of Morse Code contest entries within the Amateur community.

The current Morse Code requirement denies no one access to Amateur Radio. There continue to be license classes and radio spectrum available to anyone who desires to not learn to receive Morse Code.

Morse Code does not represent a barrier to handicapped people. In fact there is a current study in several universities on our country called the "Morse 2000" initiative, which is exploring the possibilities and advantages of using Morse Code to give people with severe developmental disabilities the means to communicate with the every day world.

I believe that is in the best interest of the United States of America to not "fall in step" with the rest of the world's governing bodies and to adamantly maintain that our body of Amateur Radio Operators be the best and most thoroughly trained group in the world.